



CENSUS OF INDIA

OCCASIONAL PAPER

NO. 2 OF 1988

**ADVANCE REPORT**

**ON AGE**

**AT MARRIAGE DIFFERENTIALS**

**IN INDIA**

**1984**



VITAL STATISTICS DIVISION  
OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR GENERAL, INDIA  
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS  
NEW DELHI

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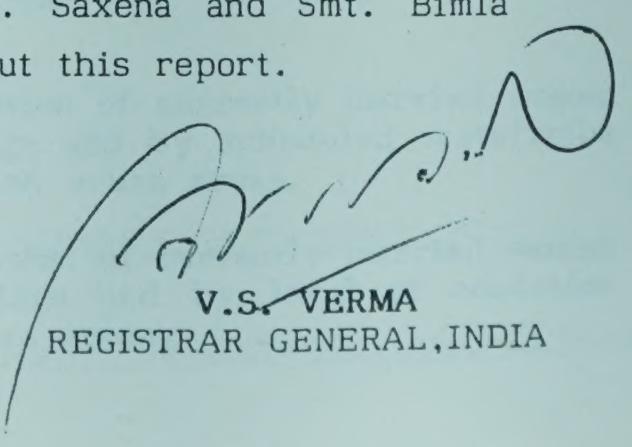


## P R E F A C E

In order to throw light on inter-relationships of fertility and mortality indicators with various socio-economic factors, the Office of the Registrar General, India periodically commissions special surveys in the sample units under Sample Registration System (SRS). The last such survey was conducted in the year 1979 and the present one was undertaken in the year 1984. It has been planned to bring out subject-wise detailed reports based on the results of the present survey. The first in the series of such reports on "Age at Marriage Differentials in India" has been completed and sent to the press for printing. This is an advance report on Age at Marriage Differentials containing some important data at all-India level.

The special survey would not have been possible without the active involvement of SRS Implementing Agencies which include several State Governments. I express my gratitude to these agencies for the hard work put in by them. My thanks are also due to the officers and staff of the Analytical and Evaluation Unit of the Vital Statistics Division who conceptualised the format of the report in the first instance and completed the required task. In particular, I am happy to record my appreciation of the efforts put in by Dr. S.S. Srivastava, Joint Registrar General, Shri V.S. Swamy, Deputy Registrar General, Shri S.K. Sinha, Senior Research Officer, Shri A.K. Saxena and Smt. Bimla Malhotra, Investigators in bringing out this report.

New Delhi  
July 27, 1988



V.S. VERMA  
REGISTRAR GENERAL, INDIA



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## CHAPTER 1

### INTRODUCTION

1.1 Marriage is an important aspect of social life in India. Marriages are sacramental and are contracted early in life. There is no compulsory registration of marriages in the country. Data on age at marriage are, therefore, collected through a Sample Survey by asking direct question by a field investigation or by analytical method derived from census distribution of persons by marital status and by sex. The age at marriage is a key factor which influences the fertility pattern. This report deals with the age at marriage and its differentials by various socio-economic factors. The population characteristics are also included.

#### 1.2 Previous studies

1.2.1 Census has been the major source of information on marital status and age at marriage in India. Census reports from 1881 to 1931 contain interesting discussions on the marriage pattern obtaining in India. A vivid description of the marriages that took place during the period 1921-31, due to the passing of the Child Marriage Restraint Act (the Sarda Act), is given in the 1931 Census Report.

1.2.2 The data collected by the National Sample Survey (couple fertility) in 1955 and other sample surveys have revealed the changing age at marriage on the basis of respondents' recall of their ages at the time of these marriages. Such findings suffer from problems connected with the accuracy of memory, representativeness of the sample etc.

1.2.3 Dr. S.N. Agarwala's "Age at Marriage in India" published in 1962 is perhaps the most important study in this field of sociological importance. With the publication of this book, the quantitative information on age at marriage in India got a new dimension and meaningful interpretations emerged. Dr. Agarwala provided a detailed picture of trends in age at marriage in India in the sixty years prior to 1951. Dr. Agarwala's study made use of the published census information on civil conditions in India from 1891 to 1951 to calculate the average age at marriage for India, for various states and also for different castes and religions.

1.2.4 In the 1971 census, information was collected for the first time on the age at marriage from all currently married women. Tabulations were based on 10 p.c. sample slips in rural areas and 20 p.c. sample slips in urban areas. An analytical report entitled 'Female Age at Marriage' was brought out in 1977. This report presents the mean and median ages at marriage by State/Union Terriotry, religion, literacy level and rural/urban residence. The 1981 census has also collected data on age at marriage for all ever-married women on an area sample basis.

1.2.5 Information on 'age at marriage' was also collected through a comprehensive 'Fertility Survey' which was undertaken in a 25 p.c. sub-sample of the Sample Registration System (SRS) households in 1972. This survey has yielded valuable information on age at marriage differentials by

residence, religion and marriage duration. It also provided data on age at effective marriage by religion and marriage duration.

### 1.3 Present Study

1.3.1 The present study is based on the data on marital status collected through a detailed Fertility and Mortality Survey conducted in Sample Registration System (SRS) units alongwith the half-yearly survey for the period January to June 1984. The purpose of this survey was to collect comprehensive data on fertility and mortality by various socio-economic characteristics like religion, caste, level of education, household income, expenditure, occupation, age at marriage and duration of marriage. The present study aims at describing the age at marriage differentials by various factors for major states and all India separately for rural and urban areas.

### 1.4 Coverage

1.4.1 About 0.93 million schedules were canvassed covering a female population of about 2.63 million of which about 1.37 million were ever-married women and about 1.15 million were currently married women. Statement 1 below gives the state-wise coverage of the number of sample units, number of sample households and number of currently married women covered in this survey.

Statement 1

Number of sample units, sample households  
and number of currently married women.

States	Rural areas			Urban areas		
	No. of sample units	No. of sample households	No. of currently married women	No. of sample units	No. of sample households	No. of currently married women
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andhra Pradesh	190	47875	55459	100	19888	22135
Assam	200	30493	36119	54	8057	8272
Bihar	400	63068	91374	100	10017	12061
Gujarat	200	39928	52698	100	8697	10687
Haryana	100	18153	26366	60	6220	7963
Himachal Pradesh	115	8830	10553	25	2948	2468
Jammu & Kashmir	100	13849	18148	66	5295	6654
Karnataka	250	44106	53614	110	16453	19305
Kerala	150	42473	49107	90	9236	11086
Madhya Pradesh	300	40102	55825	100	58208	12357
Maharashtra	190	36406	46583	140	15267	16555
Orissa	250	33110	39627	60	5793	6141
Punjab	100	16426	21127	60	7079	8389
Rajasthan	230	34257	50583	90	8649	11995
Tamil Nadu	190	53552	56322	140	16861	17923
Uttar Pradesh	450	72980	102348	180	17383	21487
West Bengal	300	59463	70049	150	17718	17525
North-Eastern Region*	285	37839	38873	75	8442	8489
<b>INDIA</b>	<b>4147</b>	<b>719440</b>	<b>903928</b>	<b>1875</b>	<b>215575</b>	<b>244573</b>

\* Includes Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Tripura and Arunachal Pradesh.

Note: India figures include those pertaining to smaller states and union territories except Mizoram.

1.5 Sample design

1.5.1 The sample design is a stratified simple random sampling. In the rural areas, stratification has been done on the basis of natural divisions and population size classes. Each natural division within a state has been considered as a stratum and further stratification has been done by grouping the villages into population size classes. In the urban areas, stratification has been done on the basis of population size of cities/towns.

1.6 Schedule canvassed

1.6.1 The schedule canvassed in the survey consisted of six sections. Section A of the schedule meant for rural areas only dealt with the identification and classificatory particulars of the sample unit. Section B catered to the identification and classificatory particulars of the sample household. Section C was meant to record the particulars of usual resident members of the sample household. Detailed fertility history of each ever-married women was recorded in Section D. In Section E particulars of all deaths occurring to usual resident members of the household during the last one year were recorded. Section F was meant for recording the immunization particulars of all children (alive or dead) aged 6 years and below.

1.7 Reference period

1.7.1 The particulars of usual resident members of the household were recorded as on 30.6.84. The fertility history of each ever-married woman was collected as on 30.6.84. The reference period for recording births and deaths to usual resident was last one year (i.e., 1.7.83 to 30.6.84).

1.8 Field operations

1.8.1 The computer-supervisor conducting the SRS half yearly survey for the period January-June 1984 was also required to fill in the Fertility and Mortality Survey schedules (Sections A to F) at the time of his/her visit to each of the sample household. The supervisors were given intensive training as to the concept and filling of the schedules.

1.9 Scrutiny, coding & tabulation

1.9.1 All schedules were thoroughly scrutinized, edited and coded at the state headquarters. The data collected in the schedules were later transferred on tapes and various tables were generated on computer.

1.10 Estimation

1.10.1 The estimates of population characteristics and various socio-economic characteristics by age at marriage were worked out by using unbiased method of estimation.

## CHAPTER 2

### POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

#### 2.1 Marital status

2.1.1 Statement 2 gives the per cent distribution of population by marital status for males and females separately for rural and urban areas.

#### Statement 2

Per cent distribution of males and females by marital status in rural and urban areas - India.

Marital status	Rural areas		Urban areas	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
1	2	3	4	5
Never married	55.5	45.7	57.2	48.7
Married	41.4	45.9	40.7	43.2
Widowed, divorced and separated	3.1	8.4	2.1	8.1
All categories	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

2.1.2 In the rural areas of the country about 46 per cent of the females were married as against 41 per cent among males. Similarly in urban areas about 43 per cent of females were married as against 41 per cent among males. A larger proportion (8 per cent) of females than males (only 2 to 3 per cent) both in the rural and urban areas were either widowed or divorced/separated. State level distribution of population by marital status is given in Table 1 (appendix).

2.1.3 Figures in statement 2 are based on population of all ages. However females below 10 years are generally treated as not married. A more meaningful picture of marital status of females would emerge if we consider females aged 10 years and above only and look into their marital distribution. Statement 3 below gives the per cent distribution of such truncated population of females by marital status separately for rural and urban areas.

Statement 3

Per cent distribution of females aged 10 years and above by marital status in rural and urban areas - India.

Marital status	Rural areas	Urban areas
1	2	3
Never married	25.9	31.8
Married	62.6	57.4
Widowed/divorced and separated	11.5	10.8
All categories	100.0	100.0

2.1.4 It is observed from the above statement that proportion married among females in rural as well as urban areas is much higher for the truncated population than that for females of all ages. Accordingly the proportion never married among females aged 10 years and above is 26 per cent in rural areas and around 32 per cent in urban areas as compared to around 50 per cent of never married females for all ages. Such truncation will be more meaningful for characteristics like level of education also.

2.1.5 Statement 4 below provides the distribution of the major states by ranges of percentage of married females (aged 10+) separately for rural and urban areas. It is observed that percentage of married females among females aged 10 years and

above varies from 70.3 per cent in Rajasthan to 50.2 in Kerala for rural areas and from 61.8 per cent in Haryana to 46 per cent in Assam for urban areas. About half of the major states has the proportion of married females in the range of 50 to 60 and the remaining major states in the range 60 to 70 for rural areas. In urban areas the states of Bihar, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab and Rajasthan have percentage of married females among females aged 10+ in the range of 60 to 70 per cent. Less than fifty per cent of the females aged 10+ are married in urban areas of Assam, North-Eastern Region and Kerala. State level figures are given in Table 2 (Appendix).

#### Statement 4

Distribution of states by ranges of percentage of married females among females aged 10 years and above in rural and urban areas - India.

<u>Ranges of per cent married females among all females aged 10 years &amp; above</u>	<u>Rural areas</u>	<u>Urban areas</u>	
	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>
Below 50	-	Assam, Kerala, North-Eastern Region.	
50-60	Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala, Orissa, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, and North-Eastern Region.		Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Orissa, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.
60-70	Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.		Bihar, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, and Rajasthan.

#### 2.2 Level of education

2.2.1 Statement 5 gives the per cent distribution of females and males by level of education separately for rural and urban areas.

Statement 5

Per cent distribution of males and females by level of education in rural and urban areas - India.

Level of education	Rural areas		Urban areas	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
1	2	3	4	5
Illiterate	54.2	76.5	30.7	47.5
Literate but below primary.	25.1	15.8	25.0	24.4
Primary but below Matric.	15.3	6.4	23.9	17.5
Matric but below Graduate.	4.6	1.2	14.3	8.0
Graduate and above.	0.8	0.1	6.1	2.6
All levels	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

2.2.2 The above statement shows that 23.5 per cent females in rural areas and 52.5 per cent in urban areas are literates as against 45.8 per cent and 69.3 per cent males in rural and urban areas respectively. In urban areas, about 6 per cent males and 2.6 per cent females had graduate or higher degrees.

2.2.3 Statement 6 below gives the per cent distribution of population of females aged 10 years & over by level of education separately for rural and urban areas.

Statement 6

Per cent distribution of females aged 10 years and above by level of education in rural and urban areas - India.

Level of education	Rural areas		Urban areas	
	1	2	3	4
Illiterates		73.5		39.0
Literate but below primary		15.9		23.5
Primary but below Matric		8.8		23.4
Matric but below Graduate		1.6		10.6
Graduate and above		0.2		3.5
All levels		100.0		100.0

2.2.4 Table 3 in the appendix provides state level per cent distribution of truncated female population (aged 10 years and above) by level of education. Only major states are considered. Based on the figures of the percentage of literate females among females aged 10 years and above states can be grouped by various ranges of these proportions. Statement 7 shows the distribution of the major states by ranges of per cent literate females among females aged 10 years and above separately for rural and urban areas. It is observed that this percentage varies from 9.1 per cent in Rajasthan to 78.0 per cent in Kerala for rural areas and from 44.4 per cent in Rajasthan to 84.0 per cent in Kerala for urban areas. In both rural and urban areas the states of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Haryana, Jammu & Kashmir, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh have lower literacy rates for females than the national level. Statement 7 shows that in rural areas only Assam and Kerala have literate females above 50 per cent of the female population aged 10 years and above. The states of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh have female literacy below 20 per cent. In urban areas on the other hand, none of the states have female literacy below 40 per cent. The states of Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala and North-Eastern Region have female literacy more than 70 per cent whereas the states of Bihar, Jammu & Kashmir and Rajasthan have literacy level in the range of 40 to 50 per cent.

Statement 7

Distribution of states by ranges of literacy among females aged 10 years and above in rural and urban areas - India.

Ranges of Percentage literate females among females aged 10 years and above	Rural areas	Urban areas
1	2	3
Below 20	Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajas- than and Uttar Pradesh.	-
20-30	Haryana, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka and Orissa.	-

(Statement 7 continues)

1	2	3
30-40	Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Punjab, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal.	-
40-50	North-Eastern Region.	Bihar, Jammu & Kashmir and Rajasthan.
50-60	Assam	Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and Uttar Pradesh.
60-70	-	Gujarat, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Punjab, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal.
70+	Kerala	Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala and North-Eastern Region.

### 2.3 Religion

2.3.1 Another characteristic of the population under study is religion. The tabulation is based on the religion of the head of the household. It is presumed that each member of the household followed the same religion. Statement 8 gives the per cent distribution of males and females by religion separately for rural and urban areas.

#### Statement 8

Per cent distribution of males and females by religion in rural and urban areas - India.

Religion	Rural areas		Urban areas	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
1	2	3	4	5
Hindu	84.0	83.9	75.7	75.0
Muslim	10.7	10.7	18.1	18.6
Christian	2.4	2.5	2.6	2.8
Sikh	1.9	1.9	1.7	1.7
Others	1.0	1.0	1.9	1.9
All religions	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

2.3.2 About 84 per cent of the population in rural areas and about 76 per cent of the population in urban areas are Hindus. In the rural areas about 10 per cent of the population are Muslims as against 18 to 19 per cent of the population in urban areas. Sikhs account for about 2 per cent of the population both in rural and urban areas. There is no sex differentials in the distribution of population by religion.

#### 2.4 Scheduled Caste/Tribe

2.4.1 One of the social characteristics of population in India is whether a person belongs to a scheduled caste or a scheduled tribe in his/her state of residence. This information was also collected in the Fertility and Mortality Survey. SC/ST status was ascertained for head of the household and it was presumed that each member of the household belonged to the same category. Statement 9 gives the per cent distribution of population by scheduled caste/tribe status by sex and residence.

#### Statement 9

Per cent distribution of males and females by Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe status in rural and urban areas - India.

Scheduled Caste/ Scheduled Tribe 1	Rural areas		Urban areas	
	Male 2	Female 3	Male 4	Female 5
Scheduled Caste (SC)	16.8	16.6	10.1	9.9
Scheduled Tribe (ST)	8.9	9.2	2.3	2.3
Non SC/ST	74.3	74.2	87.6	87.8
All categories	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

2.4.2 It is observed that sex differentials do not exist in the distribution of population by SC/ST status. About 17 per

cent of the rural population belonged to scheduled caste and 9 per cent belonged to scheduled tribe. In urban areas about 10 per cent of the population belonged to scheduled caste and only 2.3 per cent belonged to scheduled tribe.

### 2.5 Currently married women

2.5.1 Statement 10 below gives the per cent distribution of the currently married women by religion, caste, level of education, occupation and duration of marriage separately for rural and urban areas. It is observed that about 85 per cent of the currently married women in rural areas are Hindus, 9.9 per cent are Muslims, 2.2 per cent are Christians, 1.9 per cent are Sikhs and one per cent of them belong to other religions. In the urban areas about 76.8 per cent of the currently married women are Hindus, 16.8 per cent are Muslims, 2.6 per cent are Christians, 1.8 per cent are Sikhs and about 2 per cent of them belong to other religions.

#### Statement 10

Per cent distribution of currently married women by various characteristics of population in rural and urban areas - India.

Characteristics	Rural areas		Urban areas
	1	2	3

#### Religion

Hindu	84.93	76.85
Muslim	9.92	16.76
Christian	2.23	2.60
Sikhs	1.86	1.82
Others	1.06	1.97

#### Caste

Scheduled Caste(SC)	17.09	10.03
Scheduled Tribe(ST)	9.06	2.27
Non SC/ST	73.85	87.70

(Statement 10 continues)

1	2	3
<u>Education Level</u>		
Illiterate	80.80	44.67
Literate but below Primary	12.36	22.15
Primary but below Matric	5.42	18.52
Matric but below Graduate	1.25	10.40
Graduate and above.	0.17	4.26
<u>Non workers</u>	77.77	89.72
<u>Workers</u>	22.23	10.28
<u>Per cent distribution of working currently married women by occupation</u>		
Division 1 - Professional, Technical and related workers	1.47	17.11
Division 2 - Administrative Executive and managerial workers	0.04	0.72
Division 3 - Clerical and related workers	0.33	8.82
Division 4 - Sales workers	1.11	7.23
Division 5 - Service workers	1.51	11.44
Division 6 - Farmers, Fishermen, Hunters, Loggers, and related workers	80.42	17.34
Division - 7-8-9. - Production and related workers, Transport equipment Operations and Labourers	14.95	36.71
Division X - Workers not classified by occupation	0.17	0.63

(Statement 10 continues)

1	2	3
<u>Marriage duration (Yrs.)</u>		
0-4	18.81	18.08
5-9	16.33	17.83
10-14	15.02	15.96
15-24	23.48	24.19
25+	26.36	23.94

2.5.2 About 17 and 9 per cent of the currently married women in rural areas and 10 and 2.3 per cent of them in urban areas belong to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes respectively. About 81 per cent of the currently married females in rural areas and 45 per cent in urban areas are illiterates. About one third of the literate females in rural areas and about sixty per cent in urban areas have level of literacy primary and above. In the urban areas about 8 to 9 per cent of the currently married literate females are graduates and above. It is observed that about 22 per cent of the currently married women in rural areas are workers. Among the working population of married females a majority of them in rural areas is engaged in agriculture and related occupations (Division 6). In urban areas about 37 per cent of them are engaged as production and related workers and labourers etc. (Division 7-8-9) followed by occupations like professional, technical and related workers (Division 0-1) and Agriculture and related workers (Division 6). Looking into the distribution of currently married women by duration of marriage it is observed that both in the rural and urban areas about 18 to 19 per cent of them have marriage duration less than five years. Similarly both in the rural and urban areas about 35 per cent of the currently married females have duration of marriage less than ten years. About 26.4 per cent of the currently married females in rural areas and 23.9 per cent in urban areas are of marriage duration 25 years and above.

## CHAPTER 3

### AGE AT MARRIAGE DIFFERENTIALS

#### 3.1 Age at marriage

3.1.1 Statements 11, 12 and 13 provide the per cent distribution of currently married women by age at marriage (below 18 years, 18-20 years and 21 & above years only) separately for rural and urban areas by religion, Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe status and level of education. About 63 per cent of the currently married women in rural areas got married before reaching 18 years whereas in the urban areas about 52 per cent of them got married before attaining 18 years of age. About 9 per cent of them in the rural areas and about 15 per cent in urban areas got married after attaining 21 years of age. Thus a larger proportion of currently married women in urban areas got married later than in rural areas.

#### Statement 11

Per cent distribution of currently married women by age at marriage and by religion in rural and urban areas - India.

Religion	Age at marriage (years)					
	Rural areas			Urban areas		
	Below 18	18-20	21+	Below 18	18-20	21+
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Hindus	65.1	26.4	8.5	52.6	32.8	14.6
Muslims	61.6	28.6	9.8	56.5	32.8	10.7
Christians	36.4	36.5	27.1	33.0	34.7	32.3
Sikhs	34.5	41.8	23.7	32.8	42.2	25.0
Others	59.8	27.8	12.4	51.2	33.0	15.8
All religions	63.5	27.2	9.3	52.4	33.0	14.6

3.1.2 Statement 11 shows that in the rural areas about 65 per cent of currently married Hindu females got married before attaining age 18 years as against 61.6 per cent of Muslim females marrying before 18 years of age. On the other hand only about 36.4 per cent of Christian females and about 34.5 per cent of Sikh females in rural areas got married before reaching 18 years of age. Similarly the percentages of currently married females in urban areas marrying before attaining 18 years of age were about 53, 57, 33 and 33 among Hindus, Muslims, Christians and Sikhs respectively.

Statement 12

Per cent of currently married women by age at marriage and by Scheduled Caste/Tribe status in rural and urban areas - India.

Caste	Age at marriage (years)					
	Rural areas			Urban areas		
	Below 18	18-20	21+	Below 18	18-20	21+
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Scheduled Caste	67.6	24.4	8.0	63.3	27.3	9.4
Scheduled Tribe	60.2	28.8	11.0	62.6	27.2	10.2
Non Scheduled Caste/Tribe	62.9	27.6	9.5	50.8	33.8	15.4
All categories	63.5	27.2	9.3	52.4	33.0	14.6

3.1.3 Statement 12 above shows that among Scheduled Caste currently married women in rural areas about two third of them got married before attaining age 18 years. Similarly about 63 per cent of the Scheduled Caste currently married women in urban areas got married before reaching 18 years of age. In the urban areas about half of the married women belonging to non Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe got married before reaching 18 years of age, whereas about 63 per cent of them got married before reaching age 18 years in rural areas. About 8 to 9 per cent of women belonging to Scheduled Caste category got married after attaining 21 years of age whereas about 10 to 11 per cent of them belonging to Scheduled Tribe category got married after attaining 21 years of age.

Statement 13

Per cent distribution of currently married women by age at marriage and by level of education in rural and urban areas - India.

Level of education	Age at marriage (years)					
	Rural areas			Urban areas		
	Below 18	18-20	21+	Below 18	18-20	21+
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Illiterate	66.3	25.5	8.2	63.5	28.1	8.4
Literate but below primary	54.6	33.0	12.4	53.7	34.5	11.8
Primary but below Matric	49.8	35.5	14.7	47.9	37.4	14.7
Matric but below Graduate	32.3	39.7	28.0	26.8	43.0	30.2
Graduate and above	16.9	31.1	52.0	10.1	32.7	57.2
All levels	63.5	27.2	9.3	52.4	33.0	14.6

3.1.4 From the above statement it is observed that among illiterate married females about two third of them both in rural and urban areas got married before attaining 18 years of age. About 8 per cent of the illiterate females both in rural and urban areas got married after 21 years of age as against 12

per cent among literate females but having less than primary level of education and about 30 per cent among literates having matric and above level of education. Similarly in the urban areas about 73 per cent of the currently married females having matriculation and above level of education got married after attaining 18 years of age as against only about 36 per cent of the illiterate women marrying after 18 years of age. Age at marriage appears to be positively correlated with the level of education both for rural and urban areas.

### 3.2 Singulate mean age at marriage

3.2.1 Singulate mean age at marriage (SMAM) is defined as the mean number of years a person remains single. Under the assumption that nuptiality pattern is not changing over time and that mortality does not vary significantly between married and unmarried, Hajnal (1953) developed a method to estimate SMAM from data on proportion single by age groups. Data on population classified by marital status available from censuses and surveys facilitate the calculation of SMAM. Statement 14 below gives the values of the singulate mean age at marriage for males and females as computed from population censuses, 1891-1981. Estimates of SMAM for males and females from the Fertility and Mortality Survey, 1984 are also presented.

#### Statement 14

Singulate mean age at marriage - India.

Year	Male	Female
1	2	3
1891	19.6	12.5
1901	20.0	13.1
1911	20.3	13.2
1921	20.7	13.7
1931	18.6	12.7
1941	19.9	14.7
1951	19.9	15.6
1961	21.3	15.5
1971	22.4	17.2
1981	23.3	18.3
1984*	23.6	19.2

\*Based on Fertility and Mortality Survey, 1984.  
Source: (i) The population of India, 1974 World Population Year CICRED Series (For data upto 1961).  
(ii) Report and Tables based on 5 per cent sample Data Part II - Special Census of India, 1981, Series-1 India (For 1971 and 1981).

3.2.2 It is observed from the above statement that the singulate mean age at marriage in India has risen gradually over the years both for males and females except for the year 1931. Till 1930 there was no minimum age for marriage for males and females prescribed by the law. The child Marriage Restraint Act, providing penalties for solemnising marriages of females under 14 years of age and males under 18 years came into force in April 1930. This led to a large number of child marriages which took place before the act came into force. Consequently, the singulate mean age at marriage declined in 1931 as compared to 1921 both for males and females.

3.2.3 Another way of obtaining estimates of mean age at marriage is through direct enquiry wherein data on age at marriage is collected by canvassing a schedule. The estimates of age at marriage obtained by direct enquiry will not be comparable with those obtained in Hajnal's method.

### 3.3 Mean age at marriage for currently married women and their differentials.

3.3.1 Based on the data collected through Fertility and Mortality Survey of 1984 mean age at marriage of currently married females and their husbands have been worked out by characteristics like religion, caste, level of education, and occupation.

Statement 15 below gives the mean age at marriage of currently married women and their husband separately for rural and urban areas. It is observed that the difference between the mean age at marriage of currently married women and their husbands was 4.8 years in rural areas and 5.4 years in urban areas. Both males and females have higher mean age at marriage in urban areas than in rural areas. Differentials are presented in statements 16, 17, 18 and 19.

Statement 15

Mean age at marriage of currently married women and their husbands in rural and urban areas - India.

Residence 1	Husband 2	Wife 3
Rural	21.5	16.7
Urban	23.0	17.6
Combined	21.8	16.9

(a) Religion

3.3.2 Statement 16 provides the estimates of the mean age at marriage of currently married women and their husbands by religion separately for rural and urban areas of the country. It is observed that in both rural and urban areas, Christians had the highest mean age at marriages for both males and females. Hindus females appear to marry early than females belonging to other religions in the rural areas. Mean age at marriage in urban areas is higher than that in rural areas. The difference between mean age at marriage of husband and wife is around 5 years in rural areas and 5.5 years in urban areas.

Statement 16

Mean age at marriage of currently married women and their husbands by religion in rural and urban areas - India.

Religion 1	Rural areas		Urban areas	
	Husband 2	Wife 3	Husband 4	Wife 5
Hindu	21.3	16.6	23.0	17.5
Muslim	22.2	17.0	22.7	17.3
Christian	23.9	18.9	24.8	19.3
Sikh	22.3	18.7	23.1	18.8
Others	22.2	17.1	23.0	17.6
All religion	21.5	16.7	23.0	17.6

(b) Caste

3.3.3 Statement 17 below shows that males and females belonging to Scheduled Caste marry relatively early than those belonging to Scheduled Tribe. In urban areas both Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe males and females marry earlier than those belonging to non SC/ST.

Statement 17

Mean age at marriage of currently married women and their husbands by SC/ST status in rural and urban areas - India.

Caste	Rural areas		Urban areas	
	Husband	Wife	Husband	Wife
1	2	3	4	5
Scheduled Caste (SC)	20.9	16.3	21.8	16.7
Scheduled Tribe (ST)	21.5	17.0	22.0	16.9
Non SC/ST	21.6	16.7	23.2	17.7
All categories	21.5	16.7	23.0	17.6

(c) Level of Education

3.3.4 Mean age at marriage for currently married women has also been calculated by level of education of the women. Statement 18 shows that the mean age at marriage increases with increase in the level of education. Women with matriculation and above degree marry 3 to 4 years later than the illiterate women both in rural and urban areas.

Statement 18

Mean age at marriage of currently married women by level of education in rural and urban areas - India.

Level of education 1	Rural areas 2	Urban areas 3
Illiterate	16.5	16.7
Literate but below Primary	17.4	17.5
Primary but below Matric	17.7	17.9
Matric but below Graduate	19.0	19.4
Graduate and above	20.9	21.2
All levels	16.7	17.6

(d) Occupation

3.3.5 Statement 19 gives the values of the mean age at marriage of females by selected occupations separately for rural and urban areas. Female workers in occupation division 0-1 in urban areas marry relatively late as compared to females engaged in other occupation division.

Statement 19

Mean age at marriage of currently married women by selected occupation in rural and urban areas - India.

Occupation 1	Rural areas 2	Urban areas 3
Non-workers	16.6	17.5
Workers	16.8	17.9
(a) Division 0-1	-	20.8
(b) Division 6	16.8	16.4
(c) Division 7-8-9	16.6	16.9
All categories	16.7	17.6

- Negligible Sample

(e) State differentials

3.3.6 Tables 7, 8 and 9 in the appendix give the values of the age at marriage for major states by religion, caste and level of education respectively separately for rural and urban areas. In statements 20 and 21 below major states are distributed by values of the age at marriage of females and males respectively separately for rural and urban areas. It is observed that mean age at marriage of females in rural areas varied from 15 to 16 years in the states of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh to 18 years and above in the states of Assam, Jammu & Kashmir, Kerala, North-Eastern Region, Punjab and Tamil Nadu. In rural areas Rajasthan had the lowest mean age at marriage of females (15.4 years) and North-Eastern Region had the highest mean age at marriage (19.0 years). In urban areas mean age at marriage was between 16 to 17 years in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan whereas in the states of Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Kerala, North-Eastern Region, Punjab and Tamil Nadu it was 18 years and above. In urban areas the mean age at marriage of females varied from 16.2 years in Andhra Pradesh to 19.3 years in North-Eastern Region.

3.3.7 The mean age at marriage for males in rural areas varied from below 20 years in the states of Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh to 23 years and above in the states of Assam, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala, North-Eastern Region, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal. It was lowest in rural areas of Rajasthan (19.1 years) and highest in rural areas of Kerala (25.6 years). Similarly in urban areas the mean age at marriage for males was between 20 to 21 years whereas it was 23 years and above in the states of Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, North-Eastern Region, Orissa, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal. It varied from 20.8 years in Rajasthan (urban) to 26.9 years in Kerala (urban). Thus both in rural and urban areas Kerala had the highest level of age at marriage whereas Hindi speaking states still have lowest level of age at marriage.

Statement 20

Distribution of states by ranges of mean age at marriage of females in rural and urban areas.

Mean age at marriage (years)	Rural areas	Urban areas
1	2	3
Below 15	-	-
15-16	Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh.	-
16-17	Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, West Bengal.	Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh Rajasthan.
17-18	Gujarat, Karnataka.	Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal.
18 & above	Assam, Jammu & Kashmir, Kerala, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, North-Eastern Region.	Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Kerala, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, North-Eastern Region.

Statement 21

Distribution of states by ranges of mean age at marriage of males in rural and urban areas.

Age at first marriage (years)	Rural areas	Urban areas
1	2	3
Below 20	Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh.	-
20-21	Bihar	Rajasthan
21-22	Gujarat	Bihar, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh.
22-23	Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab.	Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Punjab.
23 & above	Assam, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala, North-Eastern Region, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal	Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, North-Eastern Region, Orissa, Tamil Nadu, and West Bengal.

### 3.4 Age at effective marriage

3.4.1 Statements 22, 23 and 24 give the per cent distribution of currently married women by age at effective marriage (below 18 years, 18-20 years, 21+ years) separately for rural and urban areas of the country by religion, caste and duration of marriage. It is observed that about 56 per cent of the currently married women in rural areas and 49.4 per cent of them in urban areas got effectively married before reaching 18 years of age. About 44 per cent of the currently married women in rural areas got effectively married after 18 years of age as against 51 per cent in urban areas. In the rural areas about 12 per cent and in urban areas about 16 per cent of them got effectively married after attaining 21 years of age.

#### Statement 22

Per cent distribution of currently married women by age at effective marriage and religion in rural and urban areas - India.

Religion	Age at effective marriage (years)						
	Rural areas			Urban areas			
	Below 18	18-20	21+	Below 18	18-20	21+	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Hindu	57.4	31.5	11.1	49.4	34.9	15.7	
Muslim	57.3	31.1	11.6	54.2	34.1	11.7	
Christian	35.0	36.8	28.2	32.4	34.8	32.8	
Sikh	29.9	43.1	27.0	31.0	43.2	25.8	
Others	58.0	28.4	13.6	49.7	34.3	16.0	
All religions	56.4	31.8	11.8	49.4	34.9	15.7	

3.4.2 The above statement shows that both in the rural and urban areas about two third of the Christian and Sikh women got married after attaining the age of 18 years. About 30 per cent of the Christian women got married only after reaching

21 years of age. About 57 per cent of Hindu and Muslim women in rural areas and 50 per cent in urban areas married before reaching 18 years of age.

Statement 23

Per cent distribution of currently married women by age at effective marriage and SC/ST status in rural and urban areas - India.

Caste	Age at effective marriage (years)					
	Rural areas			Urban areas		
	Below 18	18-20	21+	Below 18	18-20	21+
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Scheduled Caste (SC)	59.2	30.2	10.6	58.8	30.4	10.8
Scheduled Tribe (ST)	55.9	31.1	13.0	60.0	28.8	11.2
Non SC/ST	55.8	32.3	11.9	48.1	35.5	16.4
All categories	56.4	31.8	11.8	49.4	34.9	15.7

3.4.3 Statement 23 above shows that both in the rural and urban areas about 59 per cent of currently married women belonging to Scheduled Caste category got effectively married before attaining 18 years of age. About 56 per cent of the non-Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe currently married women in rural areas and 48 per cent in urban areas were effectively married before reaching 18 years of age. Only around 11 per cent of women were effectively married after attaining 21 years of age both among Scheduled Caste and non-Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe categories in the rural areas.

Statement 24

Per cent distribution of currently married women by age at effective marriage and duration of marriage in rural and urban areas - India.

Duration of marriage	Age at effective marriage (years)					
	Rural areas			Urban areas		
	Below 18	18-20	21+	Below 18	18-20	21+
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
0-4	51.1	35.7	13.2	33.4	41.8	24.8
5-9	52.6	33.9	13.5	42.4	37.9	19.7

(Statement 24 continued)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
10-14	55.7	32.9	11.4	49.8	35.4	14.8
15-24	57.2	30.9	11.9	55.2	32.4	12.4
25+	62.4	27.9	9.7	60.7	29.5	9.8
All durations	56.4	31.8	11.8	49.4	34.9	15.7

3.4.4 The above statement reveals that a larger proportion of currently married women with longer marriage duration both in rural and urban areas got married early than those having smaller marriage duration.

3.5 Mean age at effective marriage for currently married females and their differentials.

3.5.1 Mean ages at effective marriage for currently married women have been calculated for characteristics like religion, caste and duration of marriage. These are described in the following paragraphs:

(a) Religion

3.5.2 Statement 25 provides the estimates of the mean age at effective marriage for currently married women by religion separately for rural and urban areas. It is observed that the mean age at effective marriage for currently married women both in rural and urban areas was highest among Christians followed by Sikhs. The gap between mean age at marriage and mean age at effective marriage was 0.7 year and 0.3 year in rural and urban areas respectively. The gap was more or less the same by religion also.

Statement 25

Mean age at effective marriage of  
currently married females by religion in  
rural and urban areas - India

Religion 1	Rural areas 2	Urban areas 3
Hindu	17.3	17.9
Muslim	17.4	17.5
Christian	19.1	19.4
Sikh	19.1	19.0
Others	17.6	17.9
All religions	17.4	17.9

(b) Caste

3.5.3 Statement 26 below shows that caste-wise differentials in the mean age at effective marriage were not significant in rural areas. In urban areas, however, mean age at effective marriage for females was higher among non SC/ST females than those belonging to Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe.

Statement 26

Mean age at effective marriage of currently married females by SC/ST status in rural and urban areas - India.

SC/ST status 1	Rural areas 2	Urban areas 3
Scheduled Caste	17.2	17.3
Scheduled Tribe	17.5	17.4
Non SC/ST	17.4	18.0
All categories	17.4	17.9

(c) Marriage duration

3.5.4 As marriage duration increases mean age at effective marriage declines. This is revealed from statement 27 given below both for rural and urban areas. Women recently married (i.e. with marriage duration 0-4 years) had a higher mean age at effective marriage (17.7 years in rural and 19.0 years in urban areas) than women having marriage duration 25 years or more (17.0 years in rural and 17.1 years in urban areas). Rural/urban differences exist for recently married women only.

Statement 27

Mean age at effective marriage  
of currently married females by duration of  
marriage in rural and urban areas - India.

Duration of marriage (years)	Rural areas	Urban areas
1	2	3
0-4	17.7	19.0
5-9	17.7	18.4
10-14	17.5	17.9
15-24	17.4	17.5
25+	17.0	17.1
All	17.4	17.9

3.6 State differentials

3.6.1 Statement 28 presents the distribution of major states by ranges of mean age at effective marriage of currently married women separately for rural and urban areas. It is observed that in all the major states considered here the mean age at effective marriage of women is above 16 years but below 20 years both in rural and urban areas. It varied from 16.5 years in Madhya Pradesh to 19.2 years in Punjab for rural areas and from 16.5 years in Andhra Pradesh to 19.4 years in North-Eastern Region and in Punjab for urban areas. Statewise

figures are given in Tables 7, 8 and 10 in the appendix.

Statement 28

Distribution of states by range of mean age at effective marriage of currently married females in rural and urban areas.

Mean age at effective marriage (years)	Rural areas	Urban areas
1	2	3
Below 16	-	-
16-17	Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan.	Andhra Pradesh.
17-18	Bihar, Haryana, Karnataka, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal.	Bihar, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan, West Bengal.
18-19	Assam, Gujarat, Jammu & Kashmir, Kerala, Tamil Nadu.	Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh.
19-20	Punjab, North-Eastern Region.	Assam, Kerala, Punjab, North-Eastern Region.
20+	-	-

3.7 Correlation between age at marriage of currently married women and their husbands

3.7.1 There is some relationship between the age at marriage of the currently married women and the age at marriage of their husbands. An attempt has been made to study such relationship by calculating the values of the coefficient of correlation between age at marriage of the currently married women and their husbands separately for rural and urban areas for the major states and all India. The values of the correlation coefficient( $r$ ) are presented in statement 29. The values of the correlation coefficients have been tested statistically against the null hypothesis ( $P=0$  i.e., there is no correlation between the age of the husband and wife). It is found that both in

the rural and urban areas in all the major states considered here as well as for all India the values of the correlation coefficient are statistically significant both at 5 as well as at 1 per cent level of significance. This implies that there exists a definite positive correlation between age at marriage of the currently married women and age at marriage of their husbands.

3.7.2 Statement 30 gives the estimated regression equations ( $Y=a+bX$ ) where  $Y$  is the age at marriage of husband and  $X$  is the age at marriage of the wife. The estimated values of the parameter 'a' would provide the difference between mean age at marriage of husbands and wives.

Statement 29

Values of correlation coefficient between age at marriage of the woman (X) and age at marriage of husband (Y) in rural and urban areas.

Major states 1	Rural areas 2	Urban areas 3
Andhra Pradesh	0.5972	0.5763
Assam	0.5889	0.4687
Bihar	0.6420	0.6252
Gujarat	0.7064	0.6828
Haryana	0.6518	0.6537
Himachal Pradesh	0.4109	0.5695
Jammu & Kashmir	0.5812	0.6197
Karnataka	0.5185	0.5053
Kerala	0.4691	0.5016
Madhya Pradesh	0.7153	0.6661
Maharashtra	0.5906	0.6386
Orissa	0.5850	0.5219
Punjab	0.6556	0.6499
Rajasthan	0.7527	0.7298
Tamil Nadu	0.5179	0.4480

## (Statement 29 continued)

1	2	3
Uttar Pradesh	0.7356	0.6700
West Bengal	0.5317	0.5793
North-Eastern Region	0.5095	0.5120
I N D I A	0.6391	0.5400

Note: All the above correlation coefficients are statistically significant at 5 as well as at 1 per cent level of significance.

Statement 30

## Regression Equations

States 1	Rural areas 2	Urban areas 3
Andhra Pradesh	$Y=5.2314+0.5005X$	$Y=5.1166+0.4917X$
Assam	$Y=4.6031+0.5407X$	$Y=4.4874+0.5530X$
Bihar	$Y=5.7616+0.5185X$	$Y=5.8465+0.4982X$
Gujarat	$Y=4.8231+0.6137X$	$Y=5.5933+0.5539X$
Haryana	$Y=6.0955+0.5017X$	$Y=6.3735+0.5182X$
Himachal Pradesh	$Y=10.1459+0.2962X$	$Y=6.9256+0.4751X$
Jammu & Kashmir	$Y=6.0367+0.5392X$	$Y=5.2549+0.5631X$
Karnataka	$Y=5.9418+0.4676X$	$Y=5.8714+0.4834X$
Kerala	$Y=5.7344+0.5223X$	$Y=2.8154+0.6385X$
Madhya Pradesh	$Y=4.6241+0.5577X$	$Y=5.6296+0.5169X$
Maharashtra	$Y=7.0833+0.4387X$	$Y=3.6766+0.5971X$
Orissa	$Y=6.4951+0.4641X$	$Y=6.8938+0.4349X$
Punjab	$Y=5.0857+0.6079X$	$Y=5.1861+0.6074X$
Rajasthan	$Y=3.1331+0.6407X$	$Y=3.1897+0.6466X$
Tamil Nadu	$Y=6.2123+0.5046X$	$Y=7.8099+0.4246X$
Uttar Pradesh	$Y=4.1545+0.6110X$	$Y=5.5855+0.5490X$
West Bengal	$Y=5.7025+0.4772X$	$Y=3.8432+0.5620X$
North-Eastern Region	$Y=5.5565+0.5425X$	$Y=5.1532+0.5717X$
I N D I A	$Y=5.6737+0.5153X$	$Y=7.7051+0.4302X$

### 3.8 Completed fertility by age at marriage

3.8.1 Information on the number of children born alive and surviving was gathered in the Fertility and Mortality Survey for all ever-married women by their age at marriage. Ever-married women who were 50 years or above at the time of the survey are expected to have completed their fertility. The completed fertility in terms of average number of children born alive and also the proportion of children surviving among those who were born alive have been considered here by various ranges of age at marriage. Statement 31 below gives such figures of average number of children born alive per ever-married women and proportion surviving by age at marriage separately for rural and urban areas. It is observed that the average number of children born alive per ever-married women declines as the age at marriage increases both in the rural and urban areas. For example, the average number of children born alive per ever-married women aged 50 years and above now and who were married before reaching 12 years of age was 4.98 in rural areas and 4.71 in urban areas whereas this number was 2.92 in rural and 2.78 in urban areas for those women aged 50 and above now who married after reaching 27 years of age. Thus age at marriage appears to have significant impact on the level of fertility both in rural and urban areas.

#### Statement 31

Average number of children born alive per ever-married woman aged 50 years and over and the percentage of children surviving by age at marriage in rural and urban areas - India.

Age at marriage (years)	Rural areas		Urban areas	
	Average number of children born alive per ever-married woman.	Percent- age of the ever born children surviving.	Average number of children born alive per ever-married woman.	Percent- age of the ever born children surviving.
1	2	3	4	5
Below 12	4.98	71.41	4.71	73.20
12-14	4.86	77.46	5.03	78.29

(Statement 31 continues)

1	2	3	4	5
15-17	4.62	80.46	4.95	80.62
18-20	4.08	84.69	4.25	85.36
21-23	3.97	88.81	4.00	88.88
24-26	3.44	90.63	3.37	91.00
27+	2.92	91.23	2.78	91.79
All ages	4.46	80.63	4.59	81.80

3.8.2 It is observed that the proportion of surviving children out of the children born alive increases with the age at marriage of the ever-married women. For example, about 91 per cent of the children born alive to ever-married women aged 50+ and marrying after 27 years of age in rural areas were alive as against 71 per cent for those women marrying before reaching 12 years of age. A similar pattern is found in the urban areas.

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**A P P E N D I X**

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Table 1(a)

Per cent distribution of males and females by marital status in rural areas.

State	Males			Females		
	Never marri- ed	Marri- ed	Widowed/ divorc- ed/sepa- rated	Never marri- ed	Marri- ed	Widowed/ divorc- ed/sepa- rated
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andhra Pradesh	51.8	45.1	3.1	41.5	47.6	10.9
Assam	63.9	33.4	2.7	55.6	37.0	7.4
Bihar	54.3	42.7	3.0	45.0	47.7	7.3
Gujarat	55.7	41.4	2.9	48.3	45.0	6.7
Haryana	58.1	38.9	3.0	48.4	47.0	4.6
Himachal Pradesh	59.1	37.3	3.6	47.6	43.8	8.6
Jammu & Kashmir	59.7	36.6	3.7	52.3	41.6	6.1
Karnataka	58.7	38.9	2.4	48.1	41.3	10.6
Kerala	60.8	37.4	1.8	49.3	39.8	10.9
Madhya Pradesh	50.8	45.5	3.7	42.6	49.4	8.0
Maharashtra	53.7	43.7	2.6	43.1	46.9	10.0
Orissa	55.5	41.6	2.9	46.7	44.3	9.0
Punjab	58.6	38.4	3.0	50.4	44.3	5.3
Rajasthan	53.5	43.4	3.1	44.8	49.0	6.2
Tamil Nadu	55.0	42.2	2.8	44.7	44.7	10.6
Uttar Pradesh	54.6	41.0	4.4	44.5	49.0	6.5
West Bengal	59.8	38.3	1.9	48.2	42.1	9.7
North-Eastern Region	62.7	34.9	2.4	54.7	37.2	8.1
INDIA	55.5	41.4	3.1	45.7	45.9	8.4

Table 1(b)

Per cent distribution of males and females  
by marital status in urban areas.

State	Males				Females		
	Never marri- ed	Marri- ed	Widowed/ divorc- ed/sepa- rated	Never marri- ed	Marri- ed	Widowed/ divorc- ed/sepa- rated	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Andhra Pradesh	56.5	41.7	1.8	46.3	43.5	10.2	
Assam	63.5	34.2	2.3	55.1	36.5	8.4	
Bihar	58.1	39.9	2.0	50.8	43.1	6.1	
Gujarat	56.2	41.8	2.0	47.7	44.3	8.0	
Haryana	57.0	40.9	2.1	48.9	45.9	5.2	
Himachal Pradesh	53.8	44.0	2.2	49.5	43.8	6.7	
Jammu & Kashmir	61.7	35.9	2.4	53.6	39.7	6.7	
Karnataka	60.9	37.5	1.6	51.2	40.0	8.8	
Kerala	61.0	37.7	1.3	48.4	40.0	11.6	
Madhya Pradesh	57.3	40.4	2.3	48.7	46.8	0.5	
Maharashtra	56.3	42.1	1.6	47.8	44.0	8.2	
Orissa	58.3	39.6	2.1	51.1	41.7	7.2	
Punjab	55.5	42.2	2.3	48.7	45.7	5.6	
Rajasthan	55.9	42.0	2.1	46.7	46.4	6.9	
Tamil Nadu	57.3	40.7	2.0	46.5	43.7	9.8	
Uttar Pradesh	58.6	38.5	2.9	51.0	42.9	6.1	
West Bengal	55.3	43.1	1.6	48.0	42.3	9.7	
North-Eastern Region	62.2	36.2	1.6	55.4	37.1	7.5	
INDIA	57.2	40.7	2.1	48.7	43.2	8.1	

Table 2

Per cent distribution of females (aged 10+) by marital status in rural and urban areas.

State	Rural areas			Urban areas		
	Never marri- ed	Marri- ed	Widowed/ Divor- ed/sepa- rated	Never marri- ed	Marri- ed	Widowed/ Divor- ed/sepa- rated
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andhra Pradesh	22.1	63.3	14.6	28.2	58.1	13.7
Assam	39.6	50.3	10.1	43.4	46.0	10.6
Bihar	23.2	66.5	10.3	31.0	60.4	8.6
Gujarat	31.0	60.0	9.0	38.8	51.8	9.4
Haryana	27.8	65.8	6.4	31.1	61.8	7.1
Himachal Pradesh	29.6	58.8	11.6	33.3	57.8	8.9
Jammu & Kashmir	34.0	57.7	8.3	39.9	51.5	8.6
Karnataka	29.4	56.1	14.5	34.9	53.3	11.8
Kerala	36.1	50.2	13.7	36.0	49.6	14.4
Madhya Pradesh	19.9	68.8	11.3	29.8	60.3	9.9
Maharashtra	24.1	62.5	13.4	30.8	58.2	11.0
Orissa	28.3	59.5	12.2	33.7	56.5	9.8
Punjab	34.1	58.8	7.1	31.7	60.8	7.5
Rajasthan	20.5	70.3	9.2	27.5	63.1	9.4
Tamil Nadu	28.7	57.6	13.7	31.0	56.3	12.7
Uttar Pradesh	21.6	69.1	9.3	32.9	58.7	8.4
West Bengal	29.0	57.7	13.3	33.6	54.1	12.3
North-Eastern Region	37.7	51.1	11.2	40.9	48.9	10.2
INDIA	25.9	62.6	11.5	31.8	57.4	10.8

Table 3(a)

Per cent distribution of females (aged 10+)  
by level of education in rural areas.

State	Illि- terate	Liter- ate but below primary	Primary but below matric	Metric but below graduate	Gradu- ate and above graduate	All
	1	2	3	4	5	6
Andhra Pradesh	83.2	10.7	5.0	1.0	0.1	100.0
Assam	44.1	29.7	23.6	2.4	0.2	100.0
Bihar	82.4	13.1	3.9	0.6	0.0	100.0
Gujarat	66.2	25.8	6.1	1.8	0.1	100.0
Haryana	78.8	11.2	8.4	1.5	0.1	100.0
Himachal Pradesh	63.4	14.6	18.4	3.4	0.2	100.0
Jammu & Kashmir	79.5	9.9	8.5	2.0	0.1	100.0
Karnataka	71.2	18.6	7.8	2.2	0.2	100.0
Kerala	22.0	30.1	37.2	9.7	1.0	100.0
Madhya Pradesh	85.0	11.7	2.9	0.3	0.1	100.0
Maharashtra	68.0	14.5	15.4	1.9	0.2	100.0
Orissa	78.0	14.3	6.6	1.0	0.1	100.0
Punjab	62.0	16.2	15.8	5.4	0.6	100.0
Rajasthan	90.9	6.1	2.6	0.4	0.0	100.0
Tamil Nadu	61.4	24.8	11.6	2.0	0.2	100.0
Uttar Pradesh	84.0	10.8	4.4	0.7	0.1	100.0
West Bengal	68.6	21.8	8.3	1.1	0.2	100.0
North-Eastern Region	52.1	28.7	16.1	2.7	0.4	100.0
INDIA	73.5	15.9	8.8	1.6	0.2	100.0

Table 3(b)

Per cent distribution of females (aged 10+)  
by level of education in urban areas.

State	Illit- erate	Liter- ate but below primary	Primary but below matric	Matric but below graduate	Gradu- ate and above	All
	1	2	3	4	5	6
Andhra Pradesh	42.9	22.6	23.4	8.7	2.4	100.0
Assam	17.4	25.4	39.4	14.7	3.1	100.0
Bihar	52.9	22.4	17.1	6.4	1.2	100.0
Gujarat	37.2	31.8	18.1	9.9	3.0	100.0
Haryana	46.2	15.0	21.8	14.1	2.9	100.0
Himachal Pradesh	21.8	14.5	28.6	26.4	8.7	100.0
Jammu & Kashmir	59.0	10.5	16.1	11.6	2.8	100.0
Karnataka	36.4	28.2	22.7	10.6	2.1	100.0
Kerala	16.0	29.2	36.9	14.2	3.7	100.0
Madhya Pradesh	44.6	23.3	21.1	8.2	2.8	100.0
Maharashtra	32.6	17.2	32.6	13.5	4.1	100.0
Orissa	41.0	21.8	27.0	8.4	1.8	100.0
Punjab	38.1	17.3	22.6	17.2	4.8	100.0
Rajasthan	55.6	17.4	16.2	7.5	3.3	100.0
Tamil Nadu	34.9	29.6	24.2	9.7	1.6	100.0
Uttar Pradesh	49.4	22.9	14.8	9.2	3.7	100.0
West Bengal	34.2	26.8	25.8	8.7	4.5	100.0
North-Eastern Region	24.7	22.2	32.0	16.3	4.8	100.0
INDIA	39.0	23.5	23.4	10.6	3.5	100.0

Table 4(a)

Per cent distribution of currently married women  
by level of education in rural areas.

State	Illit- erate	Liter- ate but below primary	Primary but below matric	Matric but below graduate	Gradu- ate and above graduate	All
	1	2	3	4	5	6
Andhra Pradesh	88.70	7.30	3.18	0.73	0.09	100.00
Assam	54.72	29.26	14.55	1.28	0.19	100.00
Bihar	87.03	10.13	2.27	0.53	0.04	100.00
Gujarat	75.93	19.15	3.34	1.42	0.16	100.00
Haryana	88.14	5.79	4.52	1.41	0.14	100.00
Himachal Pradesh	75.53	8.75	12.50	3.00	0.22	100.00
Jammu & Kashmir	91.24	3.74	3.47	1.40	0.15	100.00
Karnataka	78.27	15.21	4.75	1.55	0.22	100.00
Kerala	24.31	34.26	32.25	8.00	1.18	100.00
Madhya Pradesh	89.91	7.75	1.95	0.33	0.06	100.00
Maharashtra	75.32	11.48	11.13	1.87	0.20	100.00
Orissa	83.28	12.11	3.93	0.61	0.07	100.00
Punjab	74.23	13.00	8.16	3.89	0.72	100.00
Rajasthan	93.89	4.09	1.60	0.36	0.06	100.00
Tamil Nadu	69.89	21.08	7.17	1.66	0.20	100.00
Uttar Pradesh	89.13	7.65	2.51	0.61	0.10	100.00
West Bengal	74.84	18.91	5.06	0.99	0.20	100.00
North-Eastern Region	63.54	25.21	9.01	1.85	0.39	100.00
INDIA	80.80	12.36	5.42	1.25	0.17	100.00

Table 4(b)

Per cent distribution of currently married women  
by level of education in urban areas.

State	Illiterate	Literate but below primary	Primary but below matric	Matric but below graduate	Graduate and above	All
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andhra Pradesh	47.85	22.71	18.83	7.92	2.69	100.00
Assam	21.33	27.04	35.34	13.00	3.29	100.00
Bihar	61.63	19.41	12.14	5.35	1.49	100.00
Gujarat	41.73	28.85	15.40	10.50	3.52	100.00
Haryana	58.27	10.48	14.15	13.62	3.48	100.00
Himachal Pradesh	26.95	13.53	20.54	28.36	10.62	100.00
Jammu & Kashmir	71.80	5.99	8.98	10.08	3.15	100.00
Karnataka	41.61	27.19	18.85	10.08	2.27	100.00
Kerala	15.92	31.46	32.97	14.45	5.20	100.00
Madhya Pradesh	52.87	20.67	16.13	7.18	3.15	100.00
Maharashtra	36.92	16.18	28.13	13.74	5.03	100.00
Orissa	47.58	21.62	21.54	6.96	2.30	100.00
Punjab	44.81	16.33	16.23	16.72	5.91	100.00
Rajasthan	61.14	16.29	12.29	6.44	3.84	100.00
Tamil Nadu	38.61	29.65	19.65	10.26	1.83	100.00
Uttar Pradesh	55.63	20.89	9.92	8.88	4.68	100.00
West Bengal	37.87	26.80	21.49	8.57	5.27	100.00
North-Eastern Region	32.80	20.62	24.75	16.13	5.70	100.00
INDIA	44.67	22.15	18.52	10.40	4.26	100.00

Table 5(a)

Per cent distribution of currently married women by religion in rural areas.

State	Hindu	Muslim	Christian	Sikh	Others	All religion
	1	2	3	4	5	6
Andhra Pradesh	94.03	4.08	1.85	0.02	0.02	100.00
Assam	68.99	27.70	3.19	0.03	0.09	100.00
Bihar	83.57	13.79	1.74	0.02	0.88	100.00
Gujarat	94.34	4.61	0.55	0.01	0.49	100.00
Haryana	85.72	9.25	0.14	4.89	0.00	100.00
Himachal Pradesh	95.74	1.39	0.19	0.80	1.88	100.00
Jammu & Kashmir	36.58	59.52	0.31	2.32	1.27	100.00
Karnataka	90.60	7.31	1.71	0.01	0.37	100.00
Kerala	57.01	20.37	22.58	0.03	0.01	100.00
Madhya Pradesh	97.44	1.52	0.57	0.03	0.44	100.00
Maharashtra	87.37	5.39	0.53	0.02	6.69	100.00
Orissa	96.47	0.77	2.24	0.01	0.51	100.00
Punjab	23.43	0.74	0.90	74.84	0.09	100.00
Rajasthan	91.53	4.73	0.34	1.80	1.60	100.00
Tamil Nadu	93.37	1.58	5.04	0.00	0.01	100.00
Uttar Pradesh	86.85	12.49	0.20	0.45	0.01	100.00
West Bengal	70.38	28.25	0.75	0.03	0.59	100.00
North-Eastern Region	47.17	7.03	27.01	0.02	18.77	100.00
INDIA	84.93	9.92	2.23	1.86	1.06	100.00

Table 5(b)

Per cent distribution of currently married women by religion in urban areas.

State	Hindu	Muslim	Christian	Sikh	Others	All religion
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andhra Pradesh	77.89	19.49	2.42	0.10	0.10	100.00
Assam	82.54	15.89	0.23	0.26	1.08	100.00
Bihar	81.87	15.61	1.43	0.71	0.38	100.00
Gujarat	78.33	17.28	0.64	0.16	3.59	100.00
Haryana	93.41	0.88	0.34	5.21	0.16	100.00
Himachal Pradesh	87.26	1.10	0.44	5.97	5.23	100.00
Jammu & Kashmir	26.99	66.96	0.66	3.01	2.38	100.00
Karnataka	74.81	20.31	4.56	0.03	0.29	100.00
Kerala	53.80	27.54	18.64	0.01	0.01	100.00
Madhya Pradesh	82.44	14.18	1.17	0.82	1.39	100.00
Maharashtra	70.71	16.72	2.60	0.82	9.15	100.00
Orissa	92.92	3.33	3.34	0.21	0.20	100.00
Punjab	63.75	0.60	0.77	34.63	0.25	100.00
Rajasthan	82.38	14.90	1.02	0.42	1.28	100.00
Tamil Nadu	86.43	7.61	5.81	0.06	0.09	100.00
Uttar Pradesh	65.17	33.18	0.44	1.16	0.05	100.00
West Bengal	87.80	10.66	0.43	0.49	0.62	100.00
North-Eastern Region	69.39	6.51	19.56	0.35	4.19	100.00
INDIA	76.85	16.76	2.60	1.82	1.97	100.00

Table 6(a)

Per cent distribution of currently married women  
by Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe status  
in rural areas.

State 1	Scheduled Caste 2	Scheduled Tribe 3	Non Schedul- ed Caste/Sche- duled Tribe 4	All classes 5
Andhra Pradesh	14.78	6.21	79.01	100.00
Assam	11.72	10.29	77.99	100.00
Bihar	16.64	8.61	74.75	100.00
Gujarat	7.04	21.81	71.15	100.00
Haryana	19.43	0.26	80.31	100.00
Himachal Pradesh	26.89	5.26	67.85	100.00
Jammu & Kashmir	12.43	0.63	86.94	100.00
Karnataka	13.84	3.94	82.22	100.00
Kerala	8.90	1.37	89.73	100.00
Madhya Pradesh	17.31	21.50	61.19	100.00
Maharashtra	7.50	11.26	21.24	100.00
Orissa	17.06	24.96	57.98	100.00
Punjab	28.77	0.20	71.03	100.00
Rajasthan	17.96	13.37	68.67	100.00
Tamil Nadu	21.88	1.14	76.98	100.00
Uttar Pradesh	22.36	1.14	76.50	100.00
West Bengal	23.27	8.90	67.83	100.00
North-Eastern Region	9.94	49.73	40.33	100.00
INDIA	17.09	9.06	73.85	100.00

Table 6(b)

Per cent distribution of currently married women  
by Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe status  
in urban areas.

State	Scheduled Caste	Scheduled Tribe	Non Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe	All classes
1	2	3	4	5
Andhra Pradesh	7.14	1.25	91.61	100.00
Assam	15.42	0.84	83.74	100.00
Bihar	11.89	5.62	82.49	100.00
Gujarat	8.30	4.08	87.62	100.00
Haryana	15.18	0.39	84.43	100.00
Himachal Pradesh	12.02	0.99	86.99	100.00
Jammu & Kashmir	2.69	0.87	96.44	100.00
Karnataka	6.96	1.39	91.65	100.00
Kerala	4.85	0.84	94.31	100.00
Madhya Pradesh	11.23	4.14	84.63	100.00
Maharashtra	6.11	3.21	90.68	100.00
Orissa	10.31	9.64	80.05	100.00
Punjab	21.17	0.51	78.32	100.00
Rajasthan	14.86	2.08	83.06	100.00
Tamil Nadu	9.98	0.71	89.31	100.00
Uttar Pradesh	10.04	0.93	89.03	100.00
West Bengal	12.47	1.45	86.08	100.00
North-Eastern Region	7.32	24.54	68.14	100.00
INDIA	10.03	2.27	87.70	100.00

Table 7(a)

Mean age at marriage/effective marriage  
of females by religion for rural areas.

State	Hindu	Muslim	Christian	Sikh	Other religion	All religion
	1	2	3	4	5	6
Andhra Pradesh	A 16.31	16.36	16.59	-	-	16.31
	B 16.61	16.56	16.80	-	-	16.61
Assam	A 18.41	17.31	18.08	-	-	18.09
	B 18.44	17.34	18.13	-	-	18.13
Bihar	A 16.34	16.05	18.66	-	-	16.24
	B 17.16	17.02	19.21	-	-	17.23
Gujarat	A 17.70	17.33	-	-	-	17.73
	B 18.73	17.87	-	-	-	18.74
Haryana	A 16.03	15.46	-	18.40	-	16.10
	B 17.11	16.55	-	18.53	-	17.13
Himachal Pradesh	A 16.66	16.42	-	17.58	-	16.70
	B 16.80	16.68	-	17.82	-	16.84
Jammu & Kashmir	A 18.40	18.56	-	17.95	-	18.48
	B 18.47	18.62	-	18.00	-	18.55
Karnataka	A 17.21	17.40	18.36	-	-	17.24
	B 17.40	17.47	18.47	-	-	17.42
Kerala	A 19.08	17.14	19.74	-	-	18.84
	B 19.10	17.16	19.75	-	-	18.85
Madhya Pradesh	A 15.48	16.10	16.43	-	-	15.50
	B 16.45	16.58	16.84	-	-	16.46
Maharashtra	A 16.53	16.73	16.87	-	16.53	16.54
	B 16.78	16.92	17.08	-	16.89	16.80
Orissa	A 16.92	16.72	17.04	-	-	16.92
	B 17.14	16.83	17.17	-	-	17.14
Punjab	A 18.41	17.90	-	18.77	-	18.68
	B 19.06	18.70	-	19.25	-	19.20
Rajasthan	A 15.41	15.31	-	17.23	-	15.43
	B 16.82	16.64	-	17.51	-	16.81
Tamil Nadu	A 18.61	18.37	19.41	-	-	18.64
	B 18.69	18.42	19.47	-	-	18.73

(Table 7(a) concld.)

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Uttar Pradesh		A 15.73	16.91	-	-	-	15.89
		B 17.46	17.79	-	-	-	17.51
West Bengal		A 17.05	16.73	17.53	-	-	16.97
		B 17.13	16.82	17.62	-	-	17.05
North-Eastern Region		A 18.40	18.04	20.25	-	-	19.00
		B 18.44	18.10	20.33	-	-	19.11
INDIA		A 16.55	16.95	18.91	18.67	17.14	16.69
		B 17.34	17.38	19.07	19.10	17.57	17.42

- Inadequate sample

A - Mean age at marriage

B - Mean age at effective marriage.

Table 7(b)

Mean age at marriage/effective marriage  
of females by religion for urban areas.

State		Hindu	Muslim	Christian	Sikh	Other religion	All religion
1		2	3	4	5	6	7
Andhra Pradesh	A	16.75	16.61	17.75	-	-	16.72
	B	16.89	16.77	17.91	-	-	16.94
Assam	A	19.12	18.11	19.88	-	-	18.96
	B	19.20	18.13	19.88	-	-	19.03
Bihar	A	16.59	16.65	17.76	-	-	16.63
	B	17.33	17.15	17.88	-	-	17.33
Gujarat	A	17.76	17.71	-	-	-	17.80
	B	18.11	17.88	-	-	-	18.10
Haryana	A	17.46	17.35	-	19.14	-	17.55
	B	17.46	17.57	-	19.17	-	17.84
Himachal Pradesh	A	18.34	17.83	-	18.15	-	18.42
	B	18.43	18.25	-	18.31	-	18.52
Jammu & Kashmir	A	18.71	18.86	-	18.91	-	18.75
	B	18.77	19.04	-	18.97	-	18.80
Karnataka	A	17.80	17.35	18.57	-	-	17.74
	B	17.99	17.46	18.70	-	-	17.91
Kerala	A	19.72	16.99	20.47	-	-	19.11
	B	19.73	17.01	20.49	-	-	19.12
Madhya Pradesh	A	16.79	16.96	18.25	-	-	16.85
	B	17.27	17.15	18.46	-	-	17.27
Maharashtra	A	17.75	17.51	20.22	-	17.23	17.66
	B	18.02	17.73	20.28	-	17.55	17.99
Orissa	A	17.02	16.66	17.47	-	-	17.03
	B	17.29	16.74	17.52	-	-	17.28
Punjab	A	19.21	19.30	-	18.94	-	19.11
	B	19.47	19.48	-	19.19	-	19.36
Rajasthan	A	16.63	16.18	-	18.96	-	16.59
	B	17.46	17.25	-	18.96	-	17.44
Tamil Nadu	A	18.82	18.50	19.21	-	-	18.83
	B	18.89	18.61	19.24	-	-	18.91

(Table 7(b) conld.)

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Uttar Pradesh	A	17.43	17.47	-	-	-	17.46
	B	18.15	17.78	-	-	-	18.04
West Bengal	A	17.59	17.07	18.77	-	-	17.55
	B	17.79	17.18	18.81	-	-	17.74
North-Eastern Region	A	19.28	19.24	19.57	-	-	19.30
	B	19.36	19.35	19.68	-	-	19.40
INDIA	A	17.53	17.29	19.32	18.81	17.58	17.56
	B	17.90	17.52	19.41	18.99	17.85	17.90

- Inadequate sample

A - Mean age at marriage

B - Mean age at effective marriage.

Table 8(a)

Mean age at marriage/effective marriage  
of females by caste in rural areas.

State	Scheduled Caste		Scheduled Tribe		Non Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe	All classes
	1	2	3	4	5	
Andhra Pradesh	A	15.99	16.40	16.37	16.31	
	B	16.32	16.54	16.67	16.61	
Assam	A	18.05	18.38	18.06	18.09	
	B	18.08	18.41	18.10	18.13	
Bihar	A	16.07	17.63	16.43	16.24	
	B	17.22	18.16	17.30	17.23	
Gujarat	A	17.51	17.91	17.70	17.73	
	B	18.87	18.81	18.70	18.74	
Haryana	A	15.92	-	16.14	16.10	
	B	16.91	-	17.18	17.13	
Himachal Pradesh	A	16.37	16.54	16.84	16.70	
	B	16.54	16.64	16.97	16.84	
Jammu & Kashmir	A	18.20	18.36	18.53	18.48	
	B	18.27	18.38	18.59	18.55	
Karnataka	A	17.20	17.15	17.25	17.24	
	B	17.45	17.31	17.43	17.42	
Kerala	A	18.57	18.41	18.87	18.84	
	B	18.58	18.42	18.89	18.85	
Madhya Pradesh	A	15.20	16.16	15.36	15.50	
	B	16.26	16.83	16.38	16.46	
Maharashtra	A	16.39	16.59	16.55	16.54	
	B	16.70	16.93	16.79	16.80	
Orissa	A	16.85	17.35	16.76	16.92	
	B	17.01	17.41	17.06	17.14	
Punjab	A	18.45	-	18.77	18.68	
	B	18.95	-	19.30	19.20	
Rajasthan	A	14.96	15.79	15.48	15.43	
	B	16.51	17.06	16.84	16.81	
Tamil Nadu	A	18.46	18.79	18.69	18.64	
	B	18.56	18.87	18.77	18.73	

(Table 8(a) concl'd.)

	1	2	3	4	5
Uttar Pradesh	A	15.33	15.47	16.06	15.89
	B	17.29	17.19	17.58	17.51
West Bengal	A	16.93	17.48	16.91	16.97
	B	17.02	17.60	16.99	17.05
North- Eastern Region	A	18.09	19.54	18.55	19.00
	B	18.12	19.69	18.62	19.11
INDIA	A	16.30	17.03	16.74	16.69
	B	17.23	17.54	17.45	17.42

- Inadequate Sample

A - Mean age at marriage.

B - Mean age at effective marriage.

Table 8(b)

Mean age at marriage/effective marriage  
of females by caste in urban areas.

State		Scheduled Caste	Scheduled Tribe	Non Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe	All classes
	1	2	3	4	5
Andhra Pradesh	A	15.78	15.82	16.80	16.72
	B	15.86	16.31	16.90	16.94
Assam	A	18.21	18.38	19.10	18.96
	B	18.28	18.71	19.17	19.03
Bihar	A	16.17	16.94	16.68	16.63
	B	17.09	17.27	17.37	17.33
Gujarat	A	17.09	17.27	17.89	17.80
	B	17.47	17.66	18.19	18.10
Haryana	A	16.91	-	17.67	17.55
	B	17.47	-	17.91	17.84
Himachal Pradesh	A	17.34	17.49	18.58	18.42
	B	17.53	17.62	18.67	18.52
Jammu & Kashmir	A	17.96	18.09	18.76	18.75
	B	18.00	18.14	18.82	18.80
Karnataka	A	17.24	16.94	17.79	17.74
	B	17.49	17.06	17.96	17.91
Kerala	A	19.13	17.56	19.12	19.11
	B	19.17	17.56	19.13	19.12
Madhya Pradesh	A	16.28	15.86	16.97	16.85
	B	16.97	16.72	17.34	17.27
Maharashtra	A	16.39	16.35	17.79	17.66
	B	16.93	16.69	18.10	17.99
Orissa	A	16.90	17.00	17.02	17.03
	B	17.27	17.03	17.41	17.28
Punjab	A	18.72	-	19.21	19.11
	B	18.96	-	19.47	19.36
Rajasthan	A	16.18	16.58	16.66	16.59
	B	16.92	17.37	17.53	17.44
Tamil Nadu	A	18.00	18.27	18.87	18.83
	B	18.10	18.49	18.94	18.91

(Table 8(b) concld.)

	1	2	3	4	5
Uttar Pradesh	A	16.30	17.35	17.59	17.46
	B	17.58	18.01	18.09	18.04
West Bengal	A	16.32	17.00	17.73	17.55
	B	16.78	17.27	17.89	17.74
North- Eastern Region	A	18.55	19.28	19.39	19.30
	B	18.66	19.41	19.47	19.40
INDIA	A	16.71	16.91	17.68	17.56
	B	17.29	17.39	17.98	17.90

- Inadequate sample

A - Mean age at marriage

B - Mean age at effective marriage.

Table 9(a)

Mean age at marriage by level of education in rural areas.

State	Level of education						All classes
	Illiterate	Literate	Primary but below but below below primary	Matric but below below below matric	Graduate and above below graduate	6	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Andhra Pradesh	16.32	16.38	15.87	17.08	19.11	16.31	
Assam	17.85	18.24	18.52	19.53	21.43	18.09	
Bihar	16.43	16.74	16.79	17.09	18.34	16.24	
Gujarat	17.65	17.92	18.00	18.64	19.27	17.73	
Haryana	15.91	17.10	17.63	18.08	19.49	16.10	
Himachal Pradesh	16.44	16.96	17.44	19.06	21.63	16.70	
Jammu & Kashmir	18.49	18.32	18.24	18.88	20.84	18.48	
Karnataka	17.06	17.71	17.79	19.34	21.29	17.24	
Kerala	18.07	18.57	19.02	20.93	23.14	18.84	
Madhya Pradesh	15.47	15.67	15.18	17.26	19.32	15.50	
Maharashtra	16.33	17.08	17.03	18.28	20.69	16.54	
Orissa	16.91	16.80	17.19	18.31	20.53	16.92	
Punjab	18.41	19.31	19.19	20.00	21.32	18.68	
Rajasthan	15.38	16.39	16.43	17.10	17.87	15.43	
Tamil Nadu	18.58	18.66	18.84	19.85	21.41	18.64	
Uttar Pradesh	15.79	16.74	16.60	17.11	17.56	15.89	
West Bengal	16.90	17.03	17.30	18.77	20.56	16.97	
North-Eastern Region	19.10	18.60	18.77	20.10	22.62	19.00	
INDIA	16.47	17.41	17.73	19.04	20.85	16.69	

Table 9(b)

Mean age at marriage by level of education in urban areas.

State	Level of education						All classes					
	Illiterate	Literate but below primary	Primary but below matric	Matric but below graduate	Graduate and above graduate	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andhra Pradesh	16.35	16.26	16.47	17.90	20.67	16.72						
Assam	17.94	18.54	18.99	20.56	22.34	18.96						
Bihar	16.35	16.78	17.04	17.74	19.28	16.63						
Gujarat	17.71	17.76	18.43	19.51	21.14	17.80						
Haryana	16.89	17.78	18.23	18.82	20.18	17.55						
Himachal Pradesh	17.20	17.34	17.74	19.41	21.58	18.42						
Jammu & Kashmir	18.60	18.05	18.46	19.26	21.20	18.75						
Karnataka	17.05	17.65	18.25	19.16	20.91	17.74						
Kerala	17.57	18.40	18.97	21.17	23.19	19.11						
Madhya Pradesh	16.24	16.93	17.22	18.66	20.35	16.85						
Maharashtra	16.30	17.31	17.75	19.87	22.16	17.66						
Orissa	16.74	16.89	17.33	18.55	21.08	17.03						
Punjab	18.34	19.37	19.27	20.16	21.63	19.11						
Rajasthan	15.86	17.02	17.46	18.53	20.18	16.59						
Tamil Nadu	18.61	18.70	18.87	19.98	21.64	18.83						
Uttar Pradesh	17.00	17.58	17.64	18.55	19.90	17.46						
West Bengal	16.43	17.28	17.94	19.79	21.66	17.55						
North-Eastern Region	19.12	18.73	18.83	20.21	21.94	19.30						
INDIA	16.70	17.47	17.89	19.38	21.23	17.56						

Table 10(a)

Mean age at effective marriage by duration  
of marriage in rural areas.

State	Effective marriage duration (years)						All ages
	0-4	5-9	10-14	15-24	25+		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Andhra Pradesh	16.71	16.71	16.69	16.60	16.18	16.61	
Assam	18.38	18.25	18.16	17.98	17.91	18.13	
Bihar	17.50	17.43	17.39	17.34	17.29	17.23	
Gujarat	19.15	18.86	18.67	18.01	18.44	18.74	
Haryana	17.48	17.54	17.19	17.07	16.58	17.13	
Himachal Pradesh	18.05	17.43	16.89	16.52	16.03	16.84	
Jammu & Kashmir	19.38	18.97	18.25	18.27	18.13	18.55	
Karnataka	17.77	17.95	17.62	17.37	16.72	17.42	
Kerala	20.16	19.52	18.76	18.28	18.18	18.85	
Madhya Pradesh	16.45	16.80	16.70	16.51	16.09	16.46	
Maharashtra	17.35	17.37	17.12	16.74	16.05	16.80	
Orissa	17.72	17.40	17.21	17.02	16.71	17.14	
Punjab	19.98	19.71	19.01	18.90	18.74	19.20	
Rajasthan	16.69	17.01	16.93	16.90	16.63	16.81	
Tamil Nadu	19.39	19.12	18.69	18.58	18.19	18.73	
Uttar Pradesh	17.38	17.59	17.58	17.60	17.43	17.51	
West Bengal	18.18	17.64	16.97	16.75	15.99	17.05	
North-Eastern Region	20.05	19.28	18.52	18.85	18.92	19.11	
INDIA	17.71	17.70	17.47	17.41	17.00	17.42	

Table 10(b)

Mean age at effective marriage by duration  
of marriage in urban areas.

State	Effective marriage duration (years)						All ages
	0-4	5-9	10-14	15-24	25+	6	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Andhra Pradesh	17.57	17.09	16.60	16.54	16.20	16.94	
Assam	20.08	19.53	19.17	18.52	18.24	19.03	
Bihar	17.84	17.58	17.28	17.12	17.12	17.33	
Gujarat	19.54	18.65	18.20	18.12	16.95	18.10	
Haryana	18.81	18.28	17.88	17.53	17.03	17.84	
Himachal Pradesh	20.55	19.81	18.57	18.03	16.68	18.52	
Jammu & Kashmir	19.64	19.31	18.86	18.75	18.51	18.80	
Karnataka	18.83	18.36	17.89	17.49	17.21	17.91	
Kerala	20.43	19.80	19.12	18.49	18.19	19.12	
Madhya Pradesh	18.06	17.78	17.27	17.04	16.56	17.27	
Maharashtra	19.10	18.42	17.98	17.66	17.07	17.99	
Orissa	18.65	17.77	17.23	16.87	16.56	17.28	
Punjab	20.31	20.00	19.16	18.94	18.19	19.36	
Rajasthan	17.97	17.80	17.35	17.27	16.97	17.44	
Tamil Nadu	19.44	19.30	18.82	18.69	18.21	18.91	
Uttar Pradesh	18.79	18.19	18.01	17.82	17.68	18.04	
West Bengal	19.36	18.39	17.78	17.38	16.55	17.74	
North-Eastern Region	20.98	19.87	19.07	18.63	18.81	19.40	
INDIA	18.98	18.38	17.88	17.53	17.08	17.90	

Table 11

Average number of children born alive per ever married women aged 50 years and over and the percentage of children surviving by age at marriage separately for rural and urban areas of Andhra Pradesh.

Age at marriage (years)	Rural areas		Urban areas	
	Average number of children born alive per ever married woman	Percentage of the ever born children surviving	Average number of children born alive per ever married woman	Percentage of the ever born children surviving
1	2	3	4	5
Below 12	3.89	78.35	4.32	76.59
12-14	3.95	83.21	4.34	81.49
15-17	3.23	88.69	4.30	82.65
18-20	2.93	91.78	3.81	89.40
21-23	2.58	92.90	3.22	91.56
24-26	2.22	96.19	3.27	90.43
27+	2.08	98.70	2.98	92.07
All	3.23	86.89	4.19	82.32

Table 11

Average number of children born alive per ever married women aged 50 years and over and the percentage of children surviving by age at marriage separately for rural and urban areas of Assam.

Age at marriage (years)	Rural areas		Urban areas	
	Average number of children born alive per ever married woman	Percentage of the ever born children surviving	Average number of children born alive per ever married woman	Percentage of the ever born children surviving
1	2	3	4	5
Below 12	6.77	70.79	5.02	84.81
12-14	5.75	80.76	5.51	88.87
15-17	5.36	86.44	5.28	91.21
18-20	4.55	91.32	4.73	94.09
21-23	4.31	91.78	4.04	95.36
24-26	3.87	93.08	3.88	95.80
27+	3.18	92.88	2.97	96.23
All	4.76	88.46	4.71	92.80

Table 11

Average number of children born alive per ever married women aged 50 years and over and the percentage of children surviving by age at marriage separately for rural and urban areas of Bihar.

Age at marriage (years)	Rural areas		Urban areas	
	Average number of children born alive per ever married woman	Percentage of the ever born surviving children	Average number of children born alive per ever married woman	Percentage of the ever born surviving children
1	2	3	4	5
Below 12	3.67	85.05	3.75	79.32
12-14	3.83	87.72	4.33	85.42
15-17	3.73	88.01	4.26	87.06
18-20	3.32	91.75	3.65	21.84
21-23	3.58	93.32	4.02	90.11
24-26	3.03	93.91	2.78	95.24
27+	2.68	96.01	2.47	90.19
All	3.59	89.27	3.98	88.07

Table 11

Average number of children born alive per ever married women aged 50 years and over and the percentage of children surviving by age at marriage separately for rural and urban areas of Gujarat.

Age at marriage (years)	Rural areas		Urban areas	
	Average number of children born alive per ever married woman	Percentage of the ever born children surviving	Average number of children born alive per ever married woman	Percentage of the ever born children surviving
1	2	3	4	5
Below 12	4.91	77.27	3.84	76.87
12-14	5.12	83.51	5.71	75.06
15-17	5.16	84.06	5.48	75.02
18-20	4.50	85.72	4.71	80.02
21-23	4.09	90.23	4.98	79.84
24-26	3.77	92.94	4.64	87.13
27+	2.84	95.13	3.62	85.89
All	4.71	85.29	5.11	77.16

Table 11

Average number of children born alive per ever married women aged 50 years and over and the percentage of children surviving by age at marriage separately for rural and urban areas of Haryana.

Age at marriage (years)	Rural areas		Urban areas	
	Average number of children born alive per ever married woman	Percentage of the ever born surviving children	Average number of children born alive per ever married woman	Percentage of the ever born surviving children
1	2	3	4	5
Below 12	6.82	68.01	6.45	80.16
12-14	6.63	77.34	6.05	77.89
15-17	6.44	79.99	5.14	89.39
18-20	5.75	84.49	4.72	91.07
21-23	5.82	89.58	3.50	95.83
24-26	5.45	93.81	3.89	94.72
27+	4.70	66.79	-	-
All	6.41	79.16	5.13	87.58

Table 11

Average number of children born alive per ever married women aged 50 years and over and the percentage of children surviving by age at marriage separately for rural and urban areas of Himachal Pradesh.

Age at marriage (years)	Rural areas		Urban areas	
	Average number of children born alive per ever married woman	Percentage of the ever born children surviving	Average number of children born alive per ever married woman	Percentage of the ever born children surviving
1	2	3	4	5
Below 12	4.90	74.16	4.77	76.49
12-14	4.96	78.72	5.56	83.11
15-17	4.74	81.57	4.99	86.76
18-20	4.34	82.37	3.70	90.13
21-23	4.20	80.30	4.34	84.75
24-26	3.77	80.47	2.96	78.91
27+	2.32	72.41	1.00	88.26
All	4.70	80.18	4.63	86.03

Table 11

Average number of children born alive per ever married women aged 50 years and over and the percentage of children surviving by age at marriage separately for rural and urban areas of Jammu & Kashmir.

Age at marriage (years)	Rural areas		Urban areas	
	Average number of children born alive per ever married woman	Percentage of the ever born children surviving	Average number of children born alive per ever married woman	Percentage of the ever born children surviving
1	2	3	4	5
Below 12	4.08	83.96	5.38	71.41
12-14	4.95	84.44	4.88	84.90
15-17	4.67	86.58	4.75	86.19
18-20	4.13	89.30	4.41	90.18
21-23	4.42	88.98	4.51	90.82
24-26	3.99	92.18	3.73	89.66
27+	3.29	93.38	3.28	92.12
All	4.28	88.54	3.93	88.08

Table 11

Average number of children born alive per ever married women aged 50 years and over and the percentage of children surviving by age at marriage separately for rural and urban areas of Karnataka.

Age at marriage (years)	Rural areas		Urban areas	
	Average number of children born alive per ever married woman	Percentage of the ever born children surviving	Average number of children born alive per ever married woman	Percentage of the ever born children surviving
1	2	3	4	5
Below 12	4.54	77.86	4.40	72.93
12-14	4.42	86.64	4.60	84.97
15-17	4.35	87.73	4.62	87.32
18-20	4.05	90.37	3.93	91.21
21-23	3.99	92.38	3.93	92.51
24-26	3.54	94.62	3.67	94.57
27+	3.30	95.19	3.38	91.08
All	4.23	88.14	4.27	88.21

Table 11

Average number of children born alive per ever married women aged 50 years and over and the percentage of children surviving by age at marriage separately for rural and urban areas of Kerala.

Age at marriage (years)	Rural areas		Urban areas	
	Average number of children born alive per ever married woman	Percentage of the ever born children surviving	Average number of children born alive per ever married woman	Percentage of the ever born children surviving
1	2	3	4	5
Below 12	5.40	72.79	5.91	71.51
12-14	5.68	77.09	6.03	76.00
15-17	5.65	81.05	5.46	79.48
18-20	4.93	84.45	4.81	82.51
21-23	4.55	86.68	4.56	86.02
24-26	3.81	87.44	3.54	87.83
27+	2.68	87.84	2.76	87.65
All	4.94	83.07	4.81	81.80

Table 11

Average number of children born alive per ever married women aged 50 years and over and the percentage of children surviving by age at marriage separately for rural and urban areas of Madhya Pradesh.

Age at marriage (years)	Rural areas		Urban areas	
	Average number of children born alive per ever married woman	Percentage of the ever born children surviving	Average number of children born alive per ever married woman	Percentage of the ever born children surviving
1	2	3	4	5
Below 12	5.26	66.87	4.59	63.45
12-14	4.89	73.22	5.49	71.33
15-17	4.67	75.86	5.22	76.11
18-20	4.32	81.06	4.53	84.55
21-23	4.39	82.57	4.34	86.24
24-26	3.81	79.69	3.05	93.21
27+	3.43	78.08	3.53	83.95
All	4.75	74.28	4.99	76.64

Table 11

Average number of children born alive per ever married women aged 50 years and over and the percentage of children surviving by age at marriage separately for rural and urban areas of Maharashtra.

Age at marriage (years)	Rural areas		Urban areas	
	Average number of children born alive per ever married woman	Percentage of the ever born surviving children	Average number of children born alive per ever married woman	Percentage of the ever born surviving children
1	2	3	4	5
Below 12	5.18	68.81	5.00	70.92
12-14	5.32	72.00	5.35	75.04
15-17	5.05	76.78	5.00	80.96
18-20	4.45	80.30	4.28	86.95
21-23	4.42	84.15	3.88	91.49
24-26	3.88	85.80	3.01	93.44
27+	2.59	83.10	2.45	96.49
All	4.98	75.16	4.70	80.84

Table 11

Average number of children born alive per ever married women aged 50 years and over and the percentage of children surviving by age at marriage separately for rural and urban areas of Orissa.

Age at marriage (years)	Rural areas		Urban areas	
	Average number of children born alive per ever married woman	Percentage of the ever born children surviving	Average number of children born alive per ever married woman	Percentage of the ever born children surviving
1	2	3	4	5
Below 12	4.84	69.83	4.67	69.70
12-14	4.93	72.01	4.45	74.65
15-17	4.63	73.31	4.69	78.17
18-20	4.20	77.59	4.39	77.07
21-23	4.13	80.57	4.62	75.06
24-26	4.06	81.18	4.35	69.88
27+	3.08	82.09	2.18	76.12
All	4.53	74.30	4.56	75.79

Table 11

Average number of children born alive per ever married women aged 50 years and over and the percentage of children surviving by age at marriage separately for rural and urban areas of Punjab.

Age at marriage (years)	Rural areas		Urban areas	
	Average number of children born alive per ever married woman	Percentage of the ever surviving children	Average number of children born alive per ever married woman	Percentage of the ever surviving children
1	2	3	4	5
Below 12	4.20	85.49	3.16	91.43
12-14	4.80	86.98	3.75	90.76
15-17	5.26	86.52	4.73	92.60
18-20	4.55	91.92	4.07	95.56
21-23	4.32	93.39	3.92	95.72
24-26	4.13	93.85	3.24	96.82
27+	3.27	93.37	2.96	97.22
All	4.63	89.80	4.00	94.36

Table 11

Average number of children born alive per ever married women aged 50 years and over and the percentage of children surviving by age at marriage separately for rural and urban areas of Rajasthan.

Age at marriage (years)	Rural areas		Urban areas	
	Average number of children born alive per ever married woman	Percentage of the ever born children surviving	Average number of children born alive per ever married woman	Percentage of the ever born children surviving
1	2	3	4	5
Below 12	5.55	73.83	5.72	72.29
12-14	5.27	81.43	5.24	81.72
15-17	5.10	82.73	4.87	81.93
18-20	4.58	85.43	4.54	83.07
21-23	4.27	92.10	4.37	84.85
24-26	3.34	90.35	3.74	89.85
27+	3.09	89.91	3.40	87.24
All	5.04	81.37	4.91	81.28

Table 11

Average number of children born alive per ever married women aged 50 years and over and the percentage of children surviving by age at marriage separately for rural and urban areas of Tamil Nadu.

Age at marriage (years)	Rural areas		Urban areas	
	Average number of children born alive per ever married woman	Percentage of the ever born surviving children	Average number of children born alive per ever married woman	Percentage of the ever born surviving children
1	2	3	4	5
Below 12	4.39	67.00	4.88	61.63
12-14	4.05	78.07	4.48	78.48
15-17	3.82	81.28	4.41	78.85
18-20	3.20	85.19	3.53	84.97
21-23	3.05	90.91	3.07	89.84
24-26	2.65	92.91	2.80	91.43
27+	2.58	94.21	2.27	96.98
All	3.35	84.65	3.86	82.11

Table 11

Average number of children born alive per ever married women aged 50 years and over and the percentage of children surviving by age at marriage separately for rural and urban areas of Uttar Pradesh.

Age at marriage (years)	Rural areas		Urban areas	
	Average number of children born alive per ever married woman	Percentage of the ever born children surviving	Average number of children born alive per ever married woman	Percentage of the ever born children surviving
1	2	3	4	5
Below 12	5.36	66.94	5.70	68.97
12-14	5.38	69.93	5.74	70.94
15-17	5.20	74.00	5.76	74.66
18-20	4.75	77.49	4.92	78.87
21-23	4.55	82.38	4.66	84.66
24-26	4.00	88.23	4.08	87.09
27+	3.88	86.50	3.32	85.28
All	5.10	73.39	5.30	76.18

Table 11

Average number of children born alive per ever married women aged 50 years and over and the percentage of children surviving by age at marriage separately for rural and urban areas of West Bengal.

Age at marriage (years)	Rural areas		Urban areas	
	Average number of children born alive per ever married woman	Percentage of the ever born surviving children	Average number of children born alive per ever married woman	Percentage of the ever born surviving children
1	2	3	4	5
Below 12	4.70	79.53	4.20	80.67
12-14	4.77	82.20	4.64	83.88
15-17	4.69	84.48	4.36	87.68
18-20	4.27	86.60	3.89	91.72
21-23	4.17	90.53	3.37	92.93
24-26	3.70	92.59	2.65	93.22
27+	3.18	93.53	2.34	97.43
All	4.54	84.31	4.14	87.36

Table 11

Average number of children born alive per ever married women aged 50 years and over and the percentage of children surviving by age at marriage separately for rural and urban areas of North-Eastern Region.

Age at marriage (years)	Rural areas		Urban areas	
	Average number of children born alive per ever married woman	Percentage of the ever born children surviving	Average number of children born alive per ever married woman	Percentage of the ever born children surviving
1	2	3	4	5
Below 12	4.55	77.86	3.93	78.93
12-14	4.40	79.95	4.79	84.51
15-17	4.24	84.32	4.68	89.49
18-20	3.93	88.74	3.75	90.51
21-23	3.99	91.12	4.17	94.65
24-26	3.53	92.08	3.66	91.92
27+	2.90	92.98	2.69	92.20
All	3.84	87.95	3.98	90.20



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